

Hermann Altmann



2. Juli 1952 – 29. Dezember 2017

„Macht's es Beste draus“ – “Make the best of it”

Our beloved Hermann passed away on 29th Dec after a serious illness. He has gone into eternity. He endured the suffering until very last with much patience.

He was married to Maria for 40 years. He leaves behind his wife, a son, two daughters and four grandchildren.

Beside his family his love was competitive plowing. Started his professional life as farmer, he founded the company AltmannGmbH and directed the business until his daughter Andrea and his son Bernhard took over in 2012.

Hermanns parents have been running a farm in Brunnhöf near Schweiggers, Lower Austria. He grew up with two younger brothers Karl and Hans and with his cousin Willi in simpler circumstances. He could not gain much support for his plans from his parents house, but his father explained him how to run a tractor and a plough. Because an illness of his father in summer 1964 at the age of 12 years he ploughed all the land. In the same year Austria was hosting the World ploughing competition for the first time in Fuchsenbigl near Vienna. Hermann read articles in relation to the ploughing in the farmers journal every week. His hearts desire, to come to the Wpc 1964 did not come true, but some days later he ploughed his first opening split according to a direction of the farmers journal.

From now on his major target has been to join the ploughing matches of Austria's rural youth organisation one day. The years went by and his aunt looked after a competition plough in 1970 – able to compete the same year. His brother Karl started as well to perform in competitive ploughing. The first successes came soon and Karl qualified for the Wpc 1975 in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada. Hermann experienced his first world plowing championships ever as a coach of his brother Karl.

Only one year later, in 1976 Hermann competed on his own in Bjertorp, Sweden and won the golden plough. Further reached the 4th place at Wpc 1980 in Christchurch, New Zealand. He won the golden plough for the 2nd time in 1983 in Zimbabwe.

After his career as a plowman, he passed on his knowledge to many young ploughmen. From 1977 Hermann has been official coach of the Austrian team at each year's Wpc, and Austria has won the golden plough for 14 times. As a coach his biggest successes have been:

- His brother Karl Altmann won the golden plough in his own country in 1987 in Austria

- Helga Wielander as the first woman who won the golden plough in 1993 in Sweden

- His son Bernhard Altmann won the golden plough in 1998 and 2005, runner up in 2008 in Austria, European reversible champion in the Netherlands in 2002

- World Champion in Conventional Barbara Klaus and RunnerUp in Reversible Margareta Heigl in 2013 Olds College, Canada.

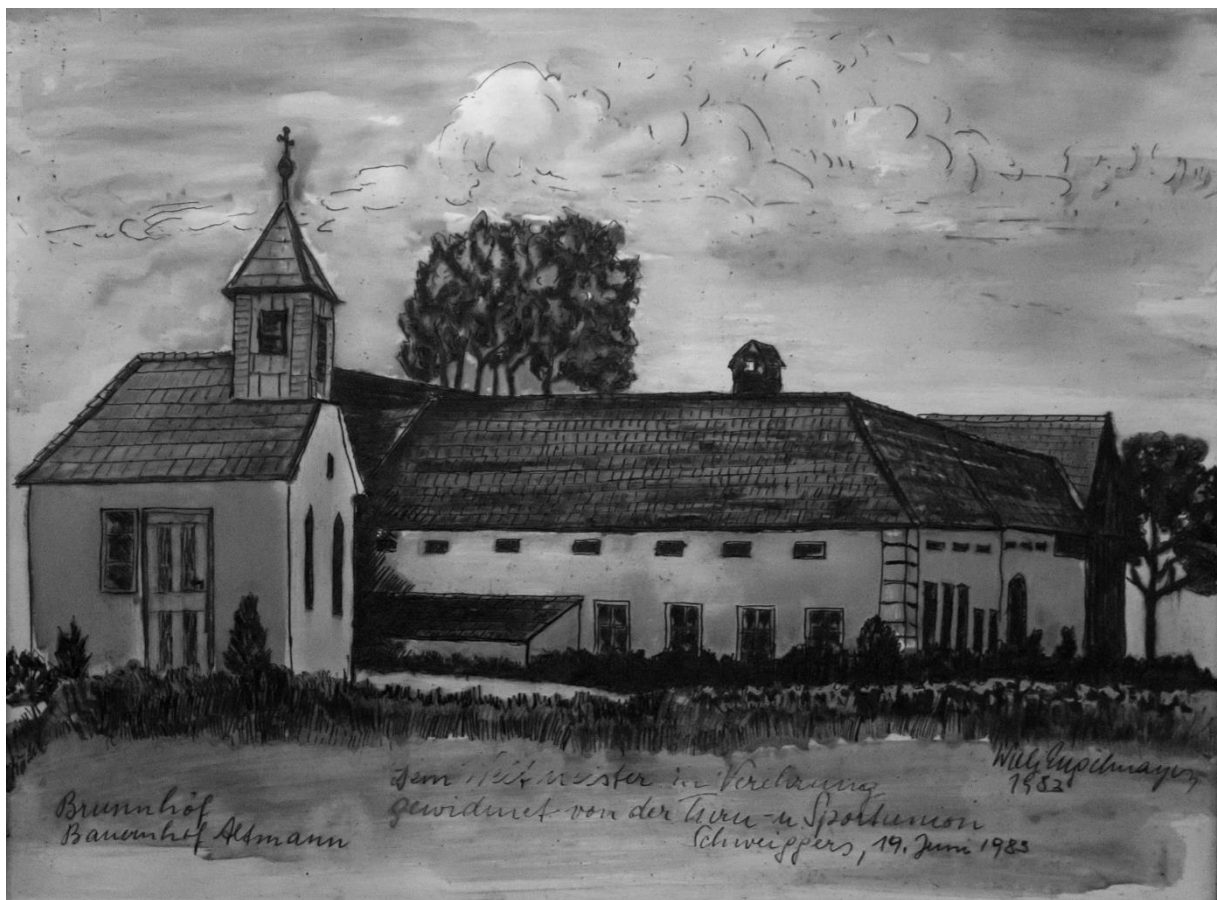
At the Austrian national finals Hermann served as judge and later as head steward. In 1997 he became Member of the Austrian Ploughing Committee. In 2005 his home community recognises his outstanding work with the „Ehrendadel“. In 2007 the governor of Lower Austria recognises his life-long services and involvement in ploughing with the silver medal. As a life-long coach he got great connection to young people, he has been able to make them believe in the success, even if they have not been that driven.

At the Wpc 2016 in England he realised for the first time that he could not give the full support to the team. During the first weeks of this year he made the decision to stay and not to visit Kenya. Involved in ploughing on world level for more than 40 years we are sure that Hermann is grateful for all the support and hospitality he got all over the world, further for all the friendships around the world.

Throughout his life Hermann Altmann always approached new goals with enthusiasm, inventiveness, patience and dedication. He has started his professional life as a farmer on the parental farm. The younger Hermann was hired several times as Emergency Farm Assistant from families around the country. Later he has been employed on a larger arable farm. In 1975 he joined the Austrian Kverneland Importer Walter Jeitler and became his service advisor. He has been very entrepreneurial and started an agricultural contracting company beginning of the 1980's running round- and squarebalers. In 1993 the Jeitler Company, Kverneland-Importer became insolvent. The brothers Hermann and Karl have been looking for a possibility to use their knowledge about ploughing and Kverneland-Ploughs and founded the Altmann GmbH in 1994 as Kverneland Dealer for two counties in Lower Austria. Over the years Altmann GmbH grew up to an outstanding machinery dealer with 12 employees and customers in Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and even Ukraine. Tireless and enthusiastic, he put his knowledge and skills into the service of the company. As in the case of competitive plowing, he always passed on his know-how, e.g. at seminars with students or farmers.

Hermann Altmann had a fulfilling life. We will miss him tremendously. With love and gratitude, Your family

The funeral will take place on 8th January at 2pm in Hermann's hometown in Schweiggers, Lower Austria



Altmann Farm in 1982





Preparations for Wpc 1983 Zimbabwe



Official grassland practice
Zimbabwe 1983



Wpc Canada 2013







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